



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, *in association with the Smithsonian Institution*

Newsletter

Issue #74, Summer 2016

The Buildings of Bisbee

Introducing the Museum's Walking Tour Guides

The first time I came over the Mule Mountains, drove through the tunnel and saw the Historic District of Old Bisbee open up before me, my first thought was how could I live here and pay my bills? The beautifully preserved architectural landscape immediately found a home in my soul. I was actually driving down for my internship under Arizona State University's Museum Studies graduate program... over 20 years ago! I spent the summer in Bisbee, then several months later I got a call from a Museum board member stating that they didn't see my application for the directorship, wondering how come I didn't apply. To make this short story shorter, when the Board of Directors offered me the job I was so excited that I even forgot to ask what it paid!

Bisbee is a town that copper built; the wealth generated by the mines created the wonderful built environment in which we have chosen to live. Bisbee's rich mining history, combined with today's creative energy and eclectic population makes Bisbee a unique and truly fun city to call home. I agree with the

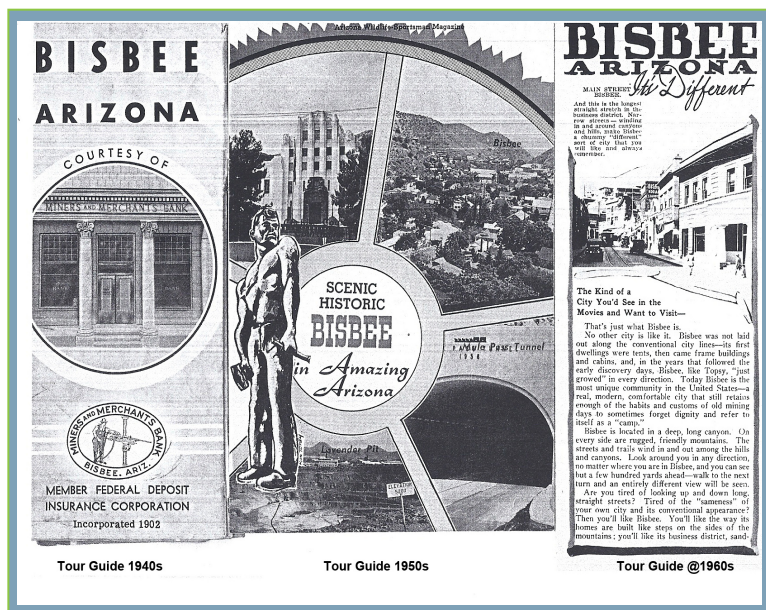
USA Today national poll that Bisbee is the best, small historic town in the nation!

With funding from the Bisbee Foundation and the Arizona Humanities Council, the Museum has been working on a series of walking tour guides of Bisbee's Historic District. We have created three separate tour

guides: Main Street, Brewery Gulch, and School Hill combined with an overview of Quality Hill.

Walking tour guides are nothing new to Bisbee; the Museum's collections have examples of tour guides dating back to the 1940s (see insert). It was interesting in reviewing these guides that they all focused on our historic architecture, many highlighting the same set of historic buildings, and many carrying the mistakes of a previous

tour guide, compounding them with their own mistakes, on and on ad infinitum until those errors became the new facts! Kind of like our oral traditions in that 'during the early 20th century, Bisbee was the largest

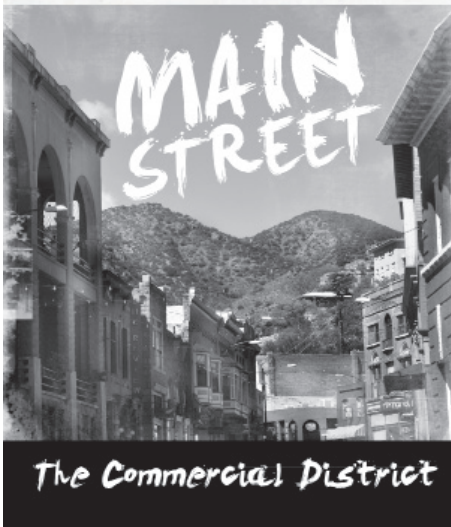


Walking Tour Guides

Main Street

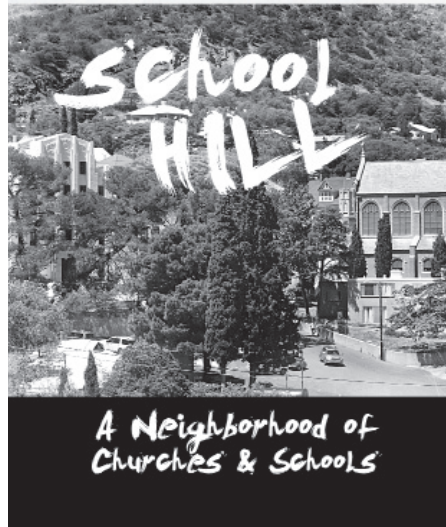
School Hill

Brewery Gulch



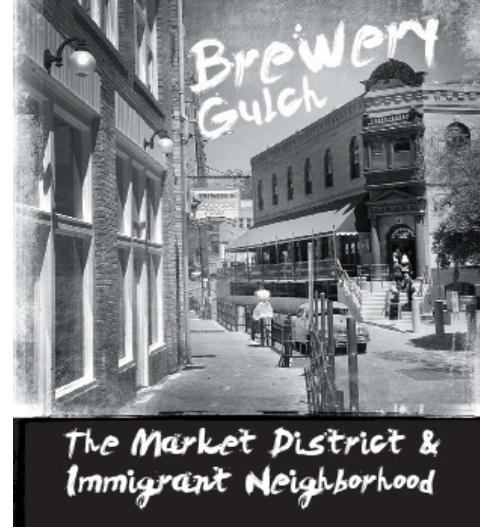
Main Street developed into the city's financial, entertainment and shopping district, where the well-heeled conducted business and shopped for fashionable goods of all sorts. Idle time was passed in restaurants and cafes that catered to the gentrified.

The few tents and wooden framed shacks that had been clustered at the base of Castle Rock in the 1880s evolved into a bustling and dusty commercial street by the turn of the 20th century. By 1914, virtually all of the wooden buildings were replaced by the two- and three-story structures that you see today, making this a snapshot of an early 20th-century small-town main street.



Organization and financing came from capitalists in "civilized" parts of the country who coveted a vision of civic order here in the wild west of the Arizona Territory. The challenge to management was to maintain a stable labor force for the mines by attracting families, and to balance civility against the robust life of the hard-scrabbled miners.

Churches and schools, the institutions that brought a settling influence to the camp, were built in a residential district on the hill between the two canyons represented by Main Street and Brewery Gulch. By 1930 there were 13 houses of worship in Old Bisbee alone.



The mining camp of Bisbee was born on the Apache Frontier by adventurous, free-spirited prospectors. Saloons, gamblers and dance hall girls soon followed.

Brewery Gulch, which largely operated without restraint until 1902, provided necessities and amusement for working men, while Main Street provided similar services and entertainment to more refined and gentrified patrons. In the early 20th century the Gulch was clogged with horse-drawn wagons heavy with deliveries to and from grocers, feed dealers and saloons. There were many advertising signs overhanging the sidewalks to attract the crowds of men spilling onto the brick pavement.

(continued from page 1)

city between St. Louis and San Francisco,' except for Topeka, Little Rock, Fort Worth, Memphis, San Antonio, Lincoln, Kansas City, Denver, and 112 others.! I am sure we will honor this tradition to some extent, but weeks of research went into verifying the potpourri of goofy dates and architectural designations appearing in the 1980 survey of the Old Bisbee Historic District for the National Register of Historic Places. One clue that things were somewhat historically odd: the Shattuck-Schmidt Building's style described as 2nd Renaissance Revival. Upon reading this, I remember learning about the Renaissance period in Europe from the 14th - 17th centuries from my old high school history classes, but I didn't remember two of them! So I Goggled my memory and there is, indeed, 2nd Renaissance Revival, but only in the Animatrix films. This is where the knowledge and generosity of Bob Vint, Architect and Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona School of Architecture, came to our rescue! Using Bob Gaethje's photographs of the historic buildings as a starting point, 75% of the architectural style designations used in our walking tour guides were altered, amended or corrected from the national historic district survey. This same rigorous standard was also applied to the text; if we couldn't verify it in our archival searches, we didn't use it! But..... for those of you with an adventurous spirit and who can't resist an historical edit or two, the walking tour guides are now available at the Museum, free, for your investigative pleasure!

The Commercial District



The Streamlined Club - Modern style building on the left was the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Building, built in 1929. It was the newest building downtown and the first major construction of well-known contractor Del Webb.



A Neighborhood of Churches & Schools



The Copper Queen Chapel.



The Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, as well as the Hotel, were built by the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company.

The Market District & Immigrant Neighborhood



The entrance to Brewery Gulch, circa 1908.



The entrance to Brewery Gulch, 1911.

What's Inside?



Did you know... that the Old Bisbee Post Office once contained more boxes

than any other post office



in the U.S...



That in 1915 the Bisbee Review newspaper office, located on the site of the first Copper Queen Dispensary, used to announce sporting events and scores by bullhorn from the second-floor windows.

That the large two-story Late Territorial Frame Muirhead House was built in 1900 by then Mayor Muirhead and that his wife ran the hotel, a purpose it continues today as the Castle Rock Inn. That the three-story brick Johnson Block, originally the home to Bowen & Hubbard Undertakers and the Palace Livery, has an elevator to take horses to the second floor where they were stabled (including this one, there are only five elevators in the historic downtown).

Did you know... Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Co. built the four-story YMCA as an employee sports hall in 1903 and that from 1905 through the mid-1940s it served as the YMCA to 'combat the evils of the liquor trade, cut mine accidents, and stimulate production by providing healthy leisure time activities for the miners and their families...'



That the eclectic Brophy House, an 1896 mix of classical

columned verandas and re-



'cottage' style often built for wealthy clients.

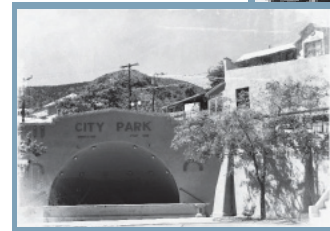
cessed dormer porches, is reminiscent of the Shingle-style architecture. These homes were informal and highly imaginative, reflective of a summer

Under Superintendent Philbrook insistence that Central School be paid for by the public and not the mining company, the students campaigned successfully for a bond issue.

Did you know... that St. Elmo's Bar, built in 1902, was named after the 6th century patron saint of (tin) mining (as well as stomach disorders, especially in children) and is the oldest bar in Bisbee...

That up Brewery Gulch you may choose to explore the 'red light district' that entertained the mainly single men of Bisbee until the end of WWII. 100 yards past the old grocery store (now Mimosa Market), 'The Line' marks the edge of the 'decent' part of town, beyond which were the 'cribs' or rows of small rooms used by the ladies. The sets of steps on the left side of the Gulch are all that remain of Bisbee's bawdy days...

That the County Jail was used by both the City and the County until 1919. Directly behind the jail is Caretto's California Winery...no coincidence this!



That the 1904 City Hall originally served as the Fire House and its Italianate Bell Tower sounded the alarm for firefighters to report to work immediately!



To view Bisbee Buildings I & II go to: <https://originals.azpm.org/arizonainillustrated.arts/> and scroll down to Bisbee episodes

Can You Match Bisbee's Buildings to their Architectural Style?

Page -2-

- 1 Copper Queen Library
- 2 The Review
- 3 Letson Block
- 4 St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- 5 Cochise County Courthouse
- 6 Muheim Block
- a Commercial Brick - Italianate
- b Romanesque Revival
- c Beaux Arts Classicism w/ Art Deco Gym
- d Pueblo Deco
- e Commercial Brick w/ Mannerist influence
- f English Gothic Revival
- g Renaissance Revival Clock Tower

Page -3-

- 7 Phelps Dodge Merchanteile
- 8 Henninger-Johnson Building
- 9 YMCA
- 10 Medigovich Building
- 11 Methodist Episcopal Church
- 12 Central School
- h Streamline Deco-Moderne
- i Commercial Brick with Venetian influence
- j Commercial Brick w/ Renaissance Revival influence
- k Carpenter Gothic
- l Commercial Brick - Italianate
- m Romanesque Revival w/ Neoclassical influence

Insert

- 13 Pythian Castle
- 14 Bisbee High School
- 15 The Fair Store



- n Romanesque portico with Italianate Bell Tower
- o Italianate

Answers:
1-b, 2-e, 3-a, 4-f, 5-d, 6-m, 7-h, 8-l, 9-o,
10-l, 11-k, 12-n, 13-g, 14-c, 15-j

Introducing our Annual Dinner Guest Presenter Bob Vint



Bob Vint is a native Arizonan, born at Ft. Huachuca. He was educated at the Universities of Chicago and Arizona, and has practiced architecture in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Massachusetts since 1986. After working with architectural firms in Boston and Tucson, Vint established his independent practice in 1993. Among his many projects are the preservation of the Mission San Xavier del Bac; design of the San Xavier Franciscan Friary and San Xavier Mission School; Linda Ronstadt's Tucson residence; the main entrance of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Pima County; and preservation of the Bisbee Central School. He has traveled widely in Mexico, the Caribbean, the US and Europe. In addition to running an active architectural practice, Bob is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Arizona, where since 2011 he has taught the History & Theory of Urban Design and led an interdisciplinary Downtown Urban Design Studio with planning, landscape and architecture students. He holds an annual seminar on Arid Region Urbanism, with field trips to relevant sites from Native American, Spanish and Anglo cultures (including Bisbee).

An Invitation Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

The Buildings of Bisbee

Guest Presenter - Bob Vint
Host of Arizona Public Media Bisbee Buildings 1 & 2

&
Pick up your walking tour guides
to Bisbee's Buildings!

When, Where & How Much

Saturday, September 24th

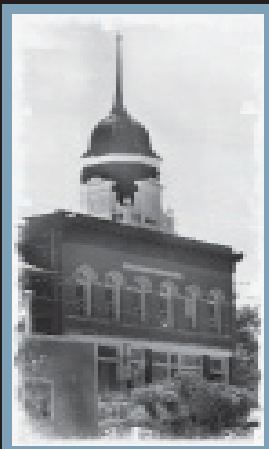
6:00 - 9:00 pm

Historic Star Chevrolet Building, Lowell



\$50 per person (wine & beer bar included in price)

\$300 Reserved table for six



Make checks payable to
Bisbee Council on the Arts &
Humanities

PO Box 14, Bisbee AZ 85603

-or-

call Museum staff to use your
credit card
(520) 432-7071

Menu

*Dinner catered by
High Desert Market & Cafe*

Roasted Pork Loin with Rosemary
Chicken Piccata
Lemon Pesto Pasta
Asparagus

*Dessert catered by
Calumet & Arizona Guesthouse*

Lemon Buttermilk Bunt Cake

Heritage Keeper Members

Chris & Gretchen Bachman • Justice Financial • Jack Ladd • The Warne Foundation

**Remember us in your will & in your estate planning.
A bequest can perpetuate your annual gift!**

Let's say your annual gift to the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum is \$500, the entry level into our Heritage Keeper membership status. A bequest to us of just \$10,000 can be endowed so that it distributes approximately \$500 each year (5% of the principal) to support our work. Even a small bequest, when endowed, can have a significant impact on funding our important programs. Ask us about the many endowment opportunities available to you and how you can create a meaningful legacy through a well-planned charitable bequest. For further information, contact Carrie Gustavson, Director, at (520) 432-7071 or by email at carrie@bisbeemuseum.org for details and references.

We would like to thank the following for their wonderful support

Alice Metz Bequest

John & Sylvia Iriarte Riddle Bequest

Joy & John Timbers Bequest

**Bisbee Buildings, Funky Architectural Styles, Walking Tour
Guides & Dinner - join us for a look inside!**

**PO Box 14
Bisbee, Arizona 85603**



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